



Doosan Fuel Cell America, Inc.  
195 Governor's Highway  
South Windsor, CT 06074  
T - 860 727 2200

Comments of David Giordano, Government Relations & Business Development

Doosan Fuel Cell America, Inc.

Planning & Development Committee

**HB 6106 – An Act Concerning the Property Tax Exemption for Certain Renewable Energy Sources and Nonresidential Hydropower Facilities**

February 3, 2021

Co-Chairs McCarthy-Vahey and Cassano, Ranking Members Hwang and Zullo and other members of the Committee:

Doosan Fuel Cell America appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of **HB 6106 – An Act Concerning the Property Tax Exemption for Certain Renewable Energy Sources and Nonresidential Hydropower Facilities**.

As you may know the Doosan Corporation is a global company with 42,000 employees and worldwide revenue of more than \$16 billion. Our global businesses span a range of products and services in infrastructure support and power generation, including nuclear power, steam turbines, power plant boilers, water desalination, construction equipment, machine tools and engines for a variety of applications. In 2014, Doosan made the decision to invest in Connecticut and acquired the former UTC Power, where we now employ 300 people at our fuel cell headquarters in East Hartford and at our world-class R&D and manufacturing facility in South Windsor, where we manufacture 50 – 60 MW of our PureCell® Model 400 systems each year.

The reliability and resiliency attributes of our fuel cells are felt during grid outages where our systems continue to run, providing essential electricity and heat to critical facilities. Such was the case here in Connecticut during winter storm Alfred in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012. Doosan fuel cells kept the lights on during these critical times of need.

The State of Connecticut has been one of the most important markets for the emerging fuel cell sector, and non-combustion fuel cells are contributing greatly to the State's goals of decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing peak load, and improving the reliability of the electric utility system. Doosan fuel cells are currently supplying clean and secure power to a diverse set of customers in Connecticut such as hospitals, universities, manufacturers, municipalities and high schools, supermarkets, residential buildings and waste water treatment plants.

As the State of Connecticut and municipalities continues to encourage clean energy projects, we support the continuation of the property tax exemption for Class I Renewable Energy Sources,



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but simply ask for some clarification. The fuel cell industry and our project developers believe that clearer language is called for to eliminate any ambiguity in the current statute as it relates to non-residential applications. For example, we have experienced problems with projects at hospitals and universities due to the way the statute is being interpreted locally. From a financial standpoint these projects are often complex and require a degree of certainty.

Doosan appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and we look forward to working with the Committee on this important legislation